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To Mark Purcell/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
cc
bcc
Subject Hurley stack demolition

Mark, I hope that you will contact Chris Eustice on this issue of the smelter demo in Hurley and related issues. I believe you heard from Allyson Siwik that Gila Resources Info Project. GRIP, filed a petition for a Temporary Restraining Order to slow down the removal which appears to have no state or federal oversight.

Tonight is the CWG meeting. While the demo is not technically an AOC issue we have been the venue for airing concerns about mining related community issues since there is no other citizen advisory or oversight.

As I imagine you find at other mining sites, many people are reticent to voice complaints and concerns to the company or to NMED. But believe me, GRIP has heard plenty of concerns. People I have personally spoken to are uninformed and many have serious safety concerns.

Once again, there is no PD point person/manager for the AOC OR the smelter demo unless recently appointed to the position. IN April a guy came who was an interim AOC PD manager but said very very little and seemed to know nothing about the smelter stack demo.

CWG members and guest have been asking for info on the demo and to see the video of the San Manuel stack demo we have heard about. However Pam Pinson who is the PD AOC liason ? (I don't know what her title is) forgot the video two meetings in a row and also claims to know nothing about the demo.

There is a frustration and disillusionment with the process for some CWG members. Some of us have been in the group for ten years.

At some point between 1997 and the present the Smelter soils were taken out of the AOC and put under the jurisdiction of Discharge Permit 214.
This left the smelter demo out of the purview of the CWG. I think this was a mistake.

Also I question the logic of doing the Interim cleanup in Hurley with no FS or ROD and then dropping the stacks and risking recontamination.

Why have Interim cleanups been allowed, was this pushed by PD's economics, high price of copper, or what? Seems like quite a risk that they may have to re-remediate.

They have not agreed to date to retesting of Hurley soils after the demo unless THEIR air quality monitors show an increase (not determined above background). This has been very vague. PD is finally meeting with NMED Air Quality Bureau May 17 only after GRIP contacted and alerted NMED AQB of the demo.

I could go on but I'll spare you! I would like to hear from you. Not sure how much oversight EPA now has over the AOC?

Thanks for your time. Sally Smith 505-313-6121

